



## County Administrative Office Governmental & Legislative Affairs

**Josh Candelaria**  
Governmental & Legislative  
Affairs Director

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your support for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker Accounts. As you craft the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fully fund the Title 1 accounts at the Department of Labor at the level authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA authorized, and the President's FY17 Budget included, \$842.4 million for the Adult Account, \$902.2 for the Youth Account, and \$1.3 billion for the Dislocated Worker Account. These funds are critical to helping the workforce system implement the tenets of WIOA while continuing to provide employment, education, and training services.

We thank you for your previous support of these crucial programs and are pleased that the final FY16 omnibus included significant increases over FY15 levels for all three accounts. WIOA and the funding levels it authorized were passed just two years ago with broad bipartisan support. With the inclusion of WIOA authorized levels for Department of Labor (DOL) Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker Accounts in the President's FY17 budget proposal, we urge you to build on this momentum in Congress and the Administration, and invest in people looking to gain better education, training, and other skills to further their career as well as in those businesses struggling to find and retain talent.

Given that Workforce Investment Boards are required to become WIOA-compliant this year after two decades of declining career training funding, we urge you to fully fund these three WIOA programs at authorized levels. Full funding will allow the national workforce system to modernize by unifying employment, job training and education programs to provide seamless delivery of services to job seekers and employers, strengthening relationships with local businesses to better respond to their workforce needs, and increasing transparency and accountability. Full funding will also allow workforce boards to serve some of the hardest to reach individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including the long-term unemployed, TANF recipients, and returning veterans, as directed by WIOA. These efforts have the dual benefits of providing businesses with employees

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with the right skill sets, and breaking the cycle of poverty and changing the lives of those newly employed.

Workforce Investment Boards have been working hard to become WIOA-compliant all while continuing to provide their high level of career services and coping with decades of underfunding. We urge you to fund the Department of Labor Title 1 Accounts at the levels authorized by WIOA in the Fiscal Year 2017 LHHS appropriations bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a stylized, flowing script.

JAMES RAMOS  
Board of Supervisors Chairman  
Third District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino

c: San Bernardino County Congressional Delegation